

today (December 31, 1913) while on a tour of the local places where birds are to be found in winter, I made an observation new to me, and while actually interesting and thrilling, it was exasperating and disappointing. While walking along a stretch of sandy beach with a companion we suddenly flushed a belated shore bird, without having time to bring our glasses to bear upon it; from the shape of its wing, mode of flight and general coloration we were quite sure that it was a Sanderling. The bird took a course directly ahead of us, and along the water's edge; so we followed hoping to positively identify it.

Three hundred yards in advance of us, sitting on the beach was a flock of about two hundred Crows quietly basking in the sun. As soon as our bird drew near them it swerved out over the water, when one of the Crows rose and flew directly at it.

The smaller bird dodged repeated attacks and was drawing ahead, when another Crow at the farther end of the flock, seeing the escape flew out to intercept it and turned the Sanderling (?) back, giving the first assailant an opportunity to swoop down and deliver a telling blow with its wing. The smaller bird fell, but recovered itself before touching the water. Then to avoid its two assailants it was obliged to fly towards the land and directly over the large flock of Crows, when about twenty of their number rose in a bunch and bore the unfortunate to the beach, all endeavoring to get at it at the same time. As soon as we discovered the little fellow's real danger, we ran and shouted, but they did not heed us until close upon them, when they flew off leaving nothing but a small piece of breast with feathers attached, the body being carried away.

We followed them up from one place of alighting to another hoping to find a wing or some part of the body but without success.—CLARENCE H. CLARK, *Lubec, Maine.*

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Providence, R. I.—It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk,' in following the movements of the Starling to know they have appeared in Providence, R. I. My business requiring my presence in this city for a few weeks, on the morning of November 23, I started out with my field glass to see what could be seen here in the line of bird life. In passing through Swan Point Cemetery I was not a little surprised to encounter a flock of about forty Starlings, many of them in full summer plumage; they were constantly in song, many times singing notes quite like our Bluebird. I have had other excellent observations of them covering a date as late as December 6.

In the same section on December 1, 1912, I found two Mockingbirds but have failed to record them this season.—E. E. CADUC, *Boston, Mass.*

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Cambridge, Mass.—A flock of Starlings numbering about sixty birds appeared at Fresh Pond in Cambridge, in late November, 1913. They were first seen by me on the 27th day and have been successively observed up to the middle of February, the time of

the writing of this note. Occasionally the flock has been divided and fewer individuals only have been seen; yet it appears to have remained essentially intact, for on February 4 and 13 the number was reckoned as fifty or more. On December 25 seventy-three birds were actually counted, as they passed in squads in the same direction from one group of trees to another group. On January 30 one was singing very prettily, perched high and alone in an oak. This is the first flock to appear in the vicinity of Boston. A single bird only has been hitherto reported, seen at Squantum Head, March 26, 1912 (Auk, XXIX, July, 1912, p. 394), which disappeared and was not further noted. The Cambridge flock has remained in and about the Fresh Pond reservation. It is interesting that an employee in the park, who told me that he was fifteen years from Ireland, recognized these birds at once on their appearance, feeling sure they were what were called in the Old Country 'Stares,' in England, Starlings. He was pleased to have the identification confirmed.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) in Connecticut in Winter.—On January 18, 1914, I observed two Rusty Blackbirds in Edgewood Park, New Haven, Conn. The birds were in a portion of the park that is rather swampy in character. These swamps are evidently fed by springs, as the shallow water does not freeze throughout the year. This makes the third winter record for this species in Connecticut. The other two are both December dates and are regarded, probably correctly, as instances of late fall migration (Birds of Connecticut, 1913, p. 115). It is interesting to note that both of these December records — one by Mr. C. H. Pangburn and one by myself — are from this same swampy area in Edgewood Park.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *New Haven, Conn.*

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) as a Conveyer of Mollusca.—On April 18, 1913, there appeared some flocks of northward bound Bobolinks; a rare bird at this time of the year, as they usually pass at night, without stopping, on their northward trip; quite the contrary to their fall migrating habits, when they stay with us, in great numbers for nearly a month. I shot three or four birds, all males, and was very much surprised to find live Mollusca among their feathers; having sent some of the snails to Dr. H. A. Pilsbry, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, for determination, he kindly informed me that they were *Succinea riisei* (Pfr.) known from the Islands of St. Croix and Porto Rico, but not from Cuba. It would be interesting to know the date of arrival of the Bobolinks at Porto Rico in the Spring of 1913, and thus tell whether the shells came from there or from St. Croix.—CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

Cowbird Note.—May 30, 1909, I was lying partly hidden behind a log at Westerly, R. I., and trying to discover the nest of a pair of Black and